

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

Claims 1-26 (canceled)

27. (new) A multi-element, modular building system for constructing a substantially plastic building, comprising:

plastic modular building components, including panels and connector elements configured to interconnect the modular building components,

wherein the modular building components are extruded from a polymer material, and wherein the connector elements have hook-like structures configured to slide or snap into interlocking engagement with corresponding hook-like structures on other building components to permit relative rotational and translational motion between building components.

28. (new) The modular building system of claim 27, wherein the connector elements are in interlocking engagement without the need for additional fasteners.

29. (new) The modular building system of claim 27, wherein the overall configuration of the building shifts in response to a change in ambient temperature and/or externally applied load such that the building increases or decreases in size.

30. (new) The modular building system of claim 27, wherein, when the ambient temperature changes and/or an external load is applied, the relative

positions between the interconnected modular components change and the building as a whole undergoes effective, reversible, bidirectional enlargement and shrinking.

31. (new) The modular building system of claim 27, wherein the connector elements respond adaptively, selectively, and dynamically with respect to an externally applied load to create load bearing paths through the building between the point of application of the externally applied load and the ground.

32. (new) The modular building system of claim 31, wherein the load bearing paths through the building differ according to the nature, size, and direction of the externally applied load.

33. (new) The modular building system of claim 27, wherein the interlocking engagement between the connector elements increases in certain regions of the building when an external load is applied.

34. (new) The modular building system of claim 27, wherein, when the ambient temperature changes and/or an external load is applied, interconnected modular building components undergo dwell periods of load transmission during which those components are not loaded.

35. (new) The modular building system of claim 27, wherein the modular building components include an internal way and chase structure adapted to receive selected utility-carrying means.

36. (new) The modular building system of claim 27, wherein the building includes an air-flow venturi system to enable air to flow into and out of the building.

37. (new) The modular building system of claim 27, further comprising a water reservoir structure, integrated with and located adjacent a foundation of the

building in order to act as a source of water for a fire suppression system, to act as a heat sink to help control the temperature in regions of the building and/or to stabilize the foundation weight of the building if the building is substantially supported on the ground and has no significant ground penetrating foundation structure.

38. (new) The modular building system of claim 27, further comprising a two part ground-engaging foundation structure which generally increases in lateral dimensions from the upper to the lower regions of the foundation structure whereby one of the parts comprises a solid core and the other of the parts comprises a jacketing structure that is arranged on opposite sides of the core and made from a different material to the core.

39. (new) The modular building system of claim 38, wherein the core is formed of concrete that has been poured into a space defined by the jacketing structure and the jacketing structure is formed from plate portions.

40. (new) The modular building system of claim 39, wherein the plate portions are extruded from a polymer material.

41. (new) The modular building system of claim 38, wherein the foundation structure includes an elongate vertically adjustable foot structure with a broad, and configurationally-adaptable footing expanse which is configured to be selectively engageable with a ground protrusion.

42. (new) The modular building system of claim 41, wherein the footing expanse comprises a downwardly facing cluster of elongate, elastomeric tentacles.

43. (new) The modular building system of claim 38, wherein the foundation structure includes elongate vertically adjustable components, employed within the foundation structure to level the foundation structure.

44. (new) The modular building system of claim 27, wherein the modular building components include panel structures arranged to carry a load under tension.

45. (new) The modular building system of claim 27, wherein the modular building components include panel structures that can be moved or interchanged to change the effective character of a wall and/or roof expanse of the building.

46. (new) The modular building system of claim 27, wherein the modular building components include panel structures floatingly connected to a frame structure using the connector elements such that an externally applied load may be transmitted between the panel structures and frame structure in an adaptive and intermittent manner according to the nature, size, and direction of the externally applied load.

47. (new) A modular system for assembling a substantially plastic building, comprising:

an operatively interconnected arrangement of elongate plastic frame elements, which generally define plural, substantially planar spaces; and

generally planar panel structures floatingly attached for permitted relative motion—within selected planar spaces, wherein the elongate frame elements and the generally planar panel structures are extruded from a polymer material, and wherein the elongate frame elements slide or snap into interlocking engagement configured to

permit relative rotational and translational motion between the interconnected elongate frame elements.

48. (new) The modular building system of claim 47, wherein the elongate frame elements include connector elements configured to confront and mate to produce the interlocking engagement that allows relative rotational and translational motion between the interconnected elongate frame elements.

49. (new) The modular building system of claim 48, wherein the connector elements include hook-like structures.

50. (new) The modular building system of claim 47, wherein the elongate front elements are in interlocking engagement without the need for additional fasteners.

51. (new) A system for constructing a building, comprising:
modular building components, including connector elements configured to interconnect the modular building components;

wherein each of the modular building components and connector elements is a plastic extrusion having one or more hook shaped portions configured to slide or snap into interlocking engagement with another building component or connector element while permitting relative rotational and translational motion between interconnected modular building components such that the building, when constructed, can respond to changes in ambient temperature and/or an externally applied load.